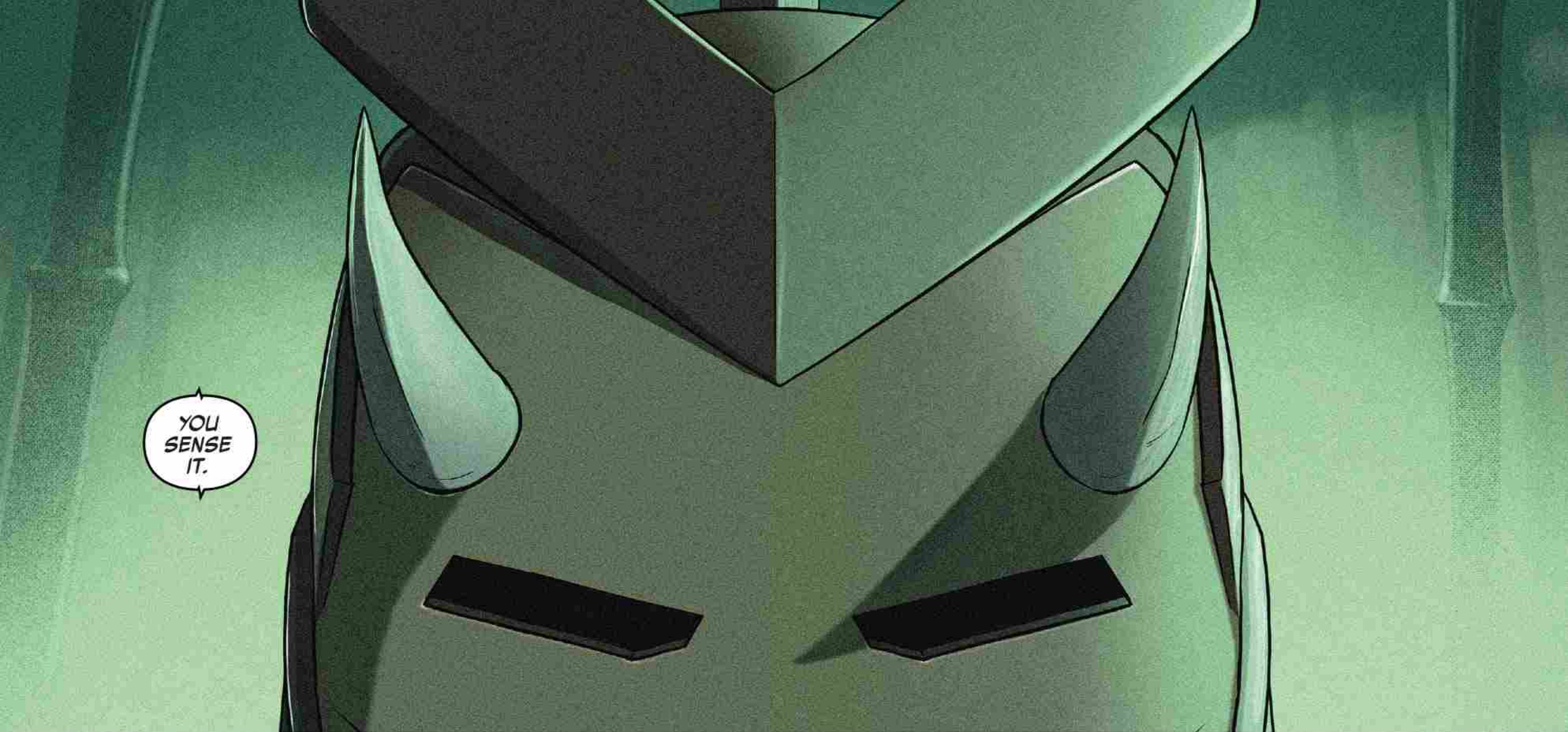


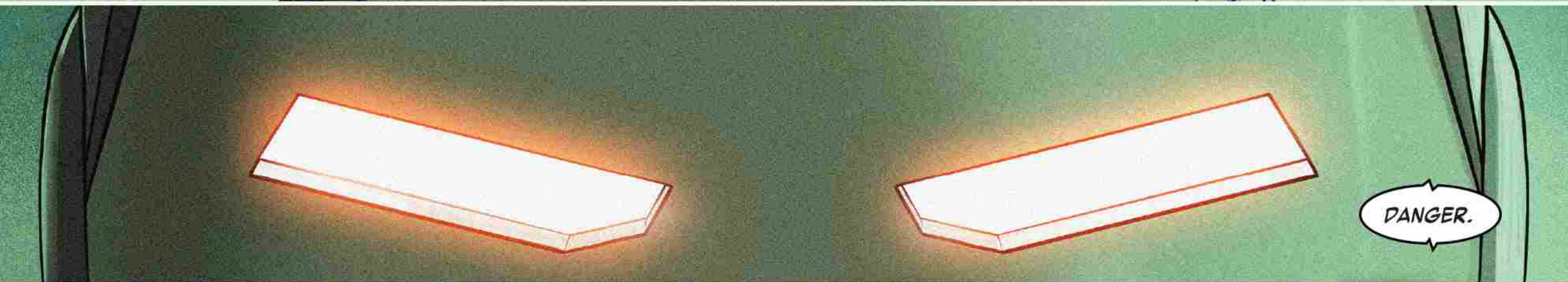
I AM...
IRON MAN



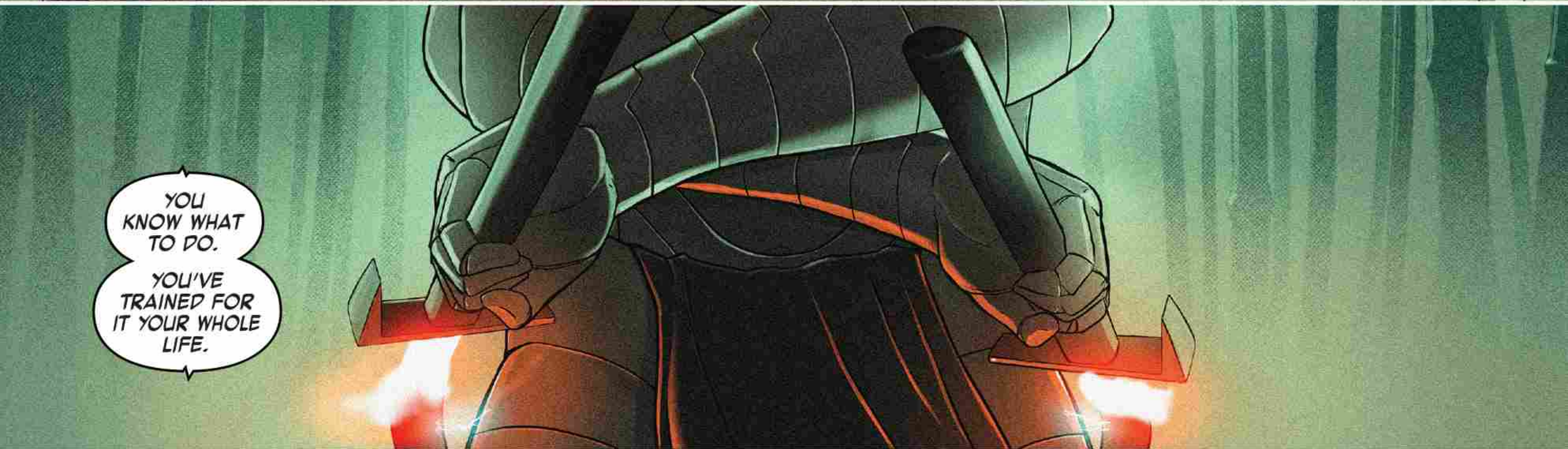
AYODELE • AKANDE



YOU
SENSE
IT.



DANGER.



YOU
KNOW WHAT
TO DO.

YOU'VE
TRAINED FOR
IT YOUR WHOLE
LIFE.



BATTLE.



AWESOME.

NOW SHEATHE
YOUR SWORDS ALL
COOL STYLE.

LET THE
UNIVERSE
SEE IT.

LET
THE UNIVERSE
COME TO
KNOW IT.

THAT
YOU ARE
BADASS.



Tony Stark is known as many things: billionaire playboy, genius inventor, futurist, hero, human. But when he dons his high-tech armor, he becomes the Mighty Avenger known as Iron Man. Watch him announce this truth. Watch him declare...

I AM... **IRON MAN**

CHAPTER THREE: BEST FRIEND

MUREWA AYODELE
WRITER

DOTUN AKANDE
ARTIST

DOTUN AKANDE
COVER ARTIST

VC's **JOE CARAMAGNA**
LETTERER

FRANCESCO MOBILI & MORRY HOLLOWELL
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

GABRIEL MATA
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

MARTIN BIRD
ASSISTANT EDITOR

ANNALISE BISSA
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

IRON MAN CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER,
DON HECK & JACK KIRBY



YOUR
VILLAGE...

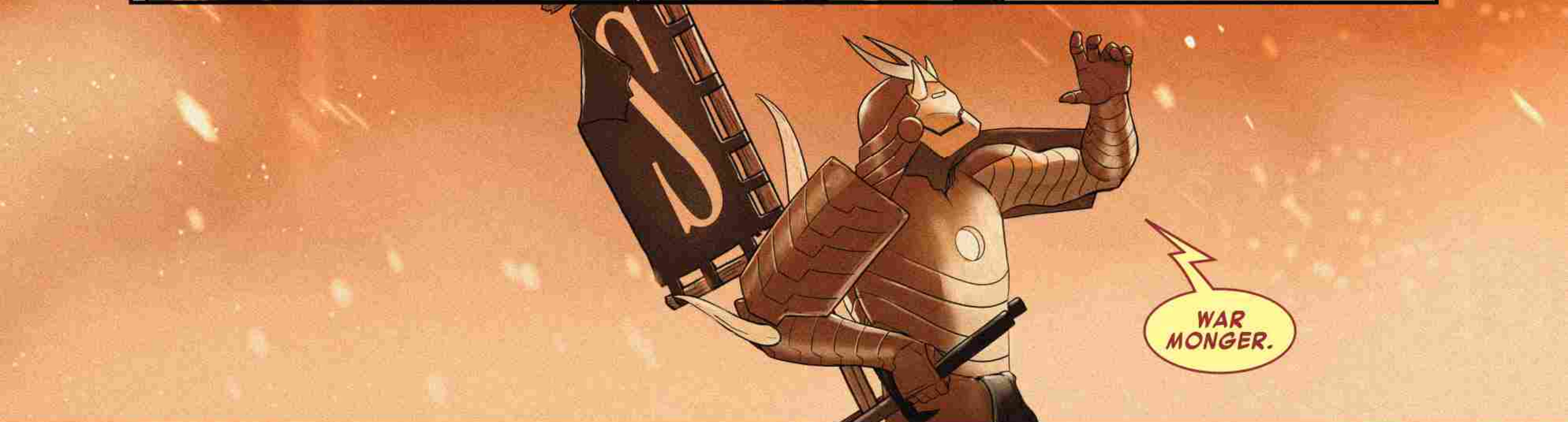
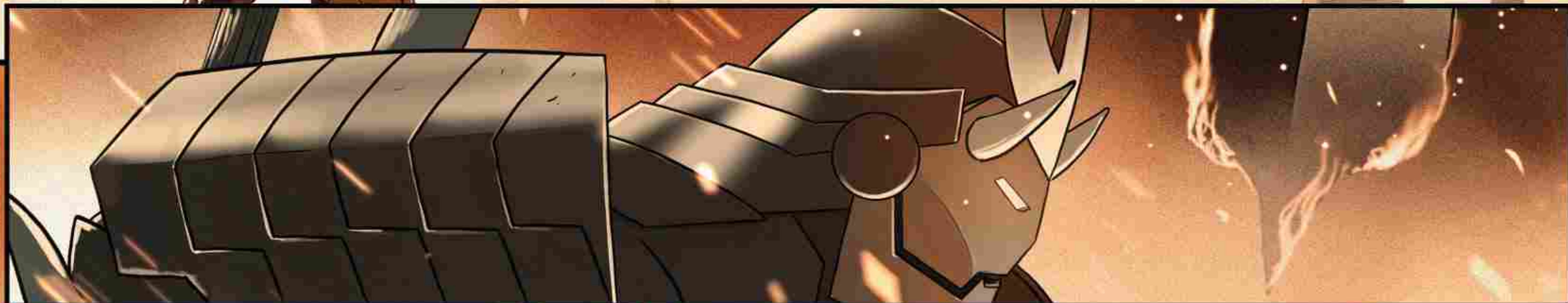
MY
VILLAGE.

...IS
BURNING.

THIS IS
SOMETHING
YOU CAN'T DEFEAT
BY SWINGING
YOUR SWORDS
AT IT.

THIS...
THIS IS YOUR
INCITING
INCIDENT.

NOTHING
WILL BE THE
SAME FROM HERE
ON OUT.

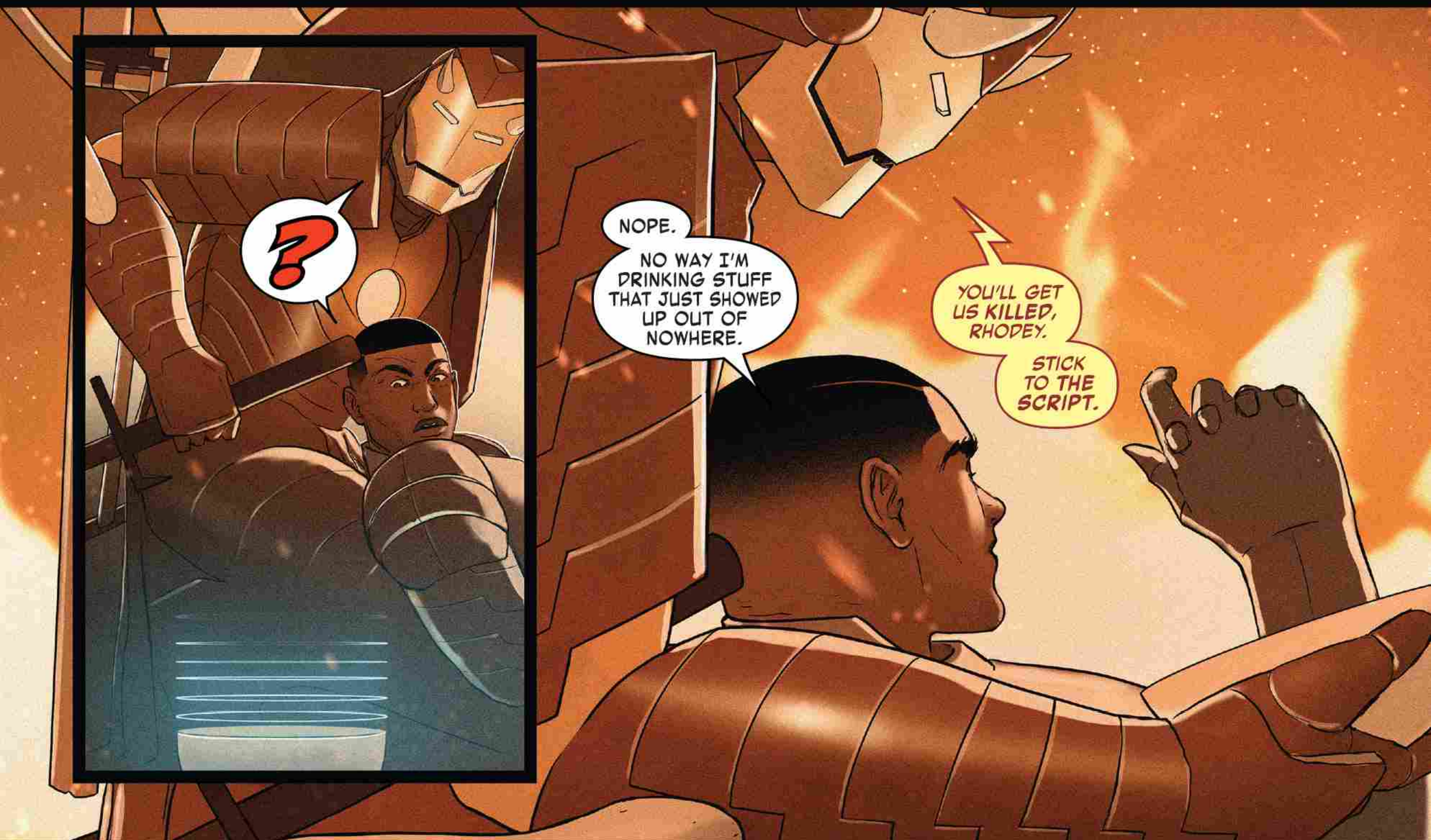




WATER.

COUGH
COUGH

I NEED
WATER, IRON
SHOGUN.



?

NOPE.

NO WAY I'M
DRINKING STUFF
THAT JUST SHOWED
UP OUT OF
NOWHERE.

YOU'LL GET
US KILLED,
RHODEY.

STICK
TO THE
SCRIPT.



OH
GAWD.

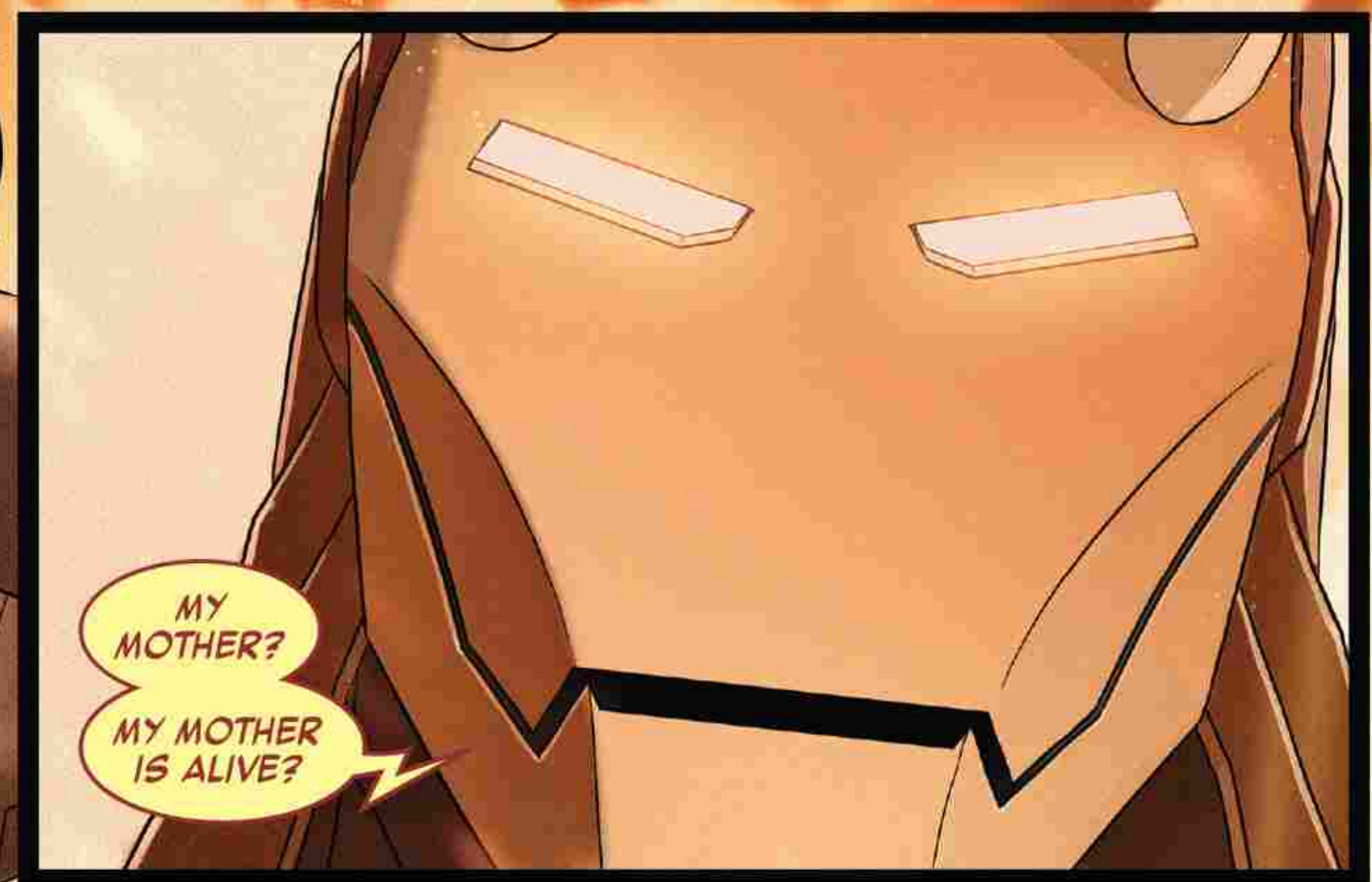
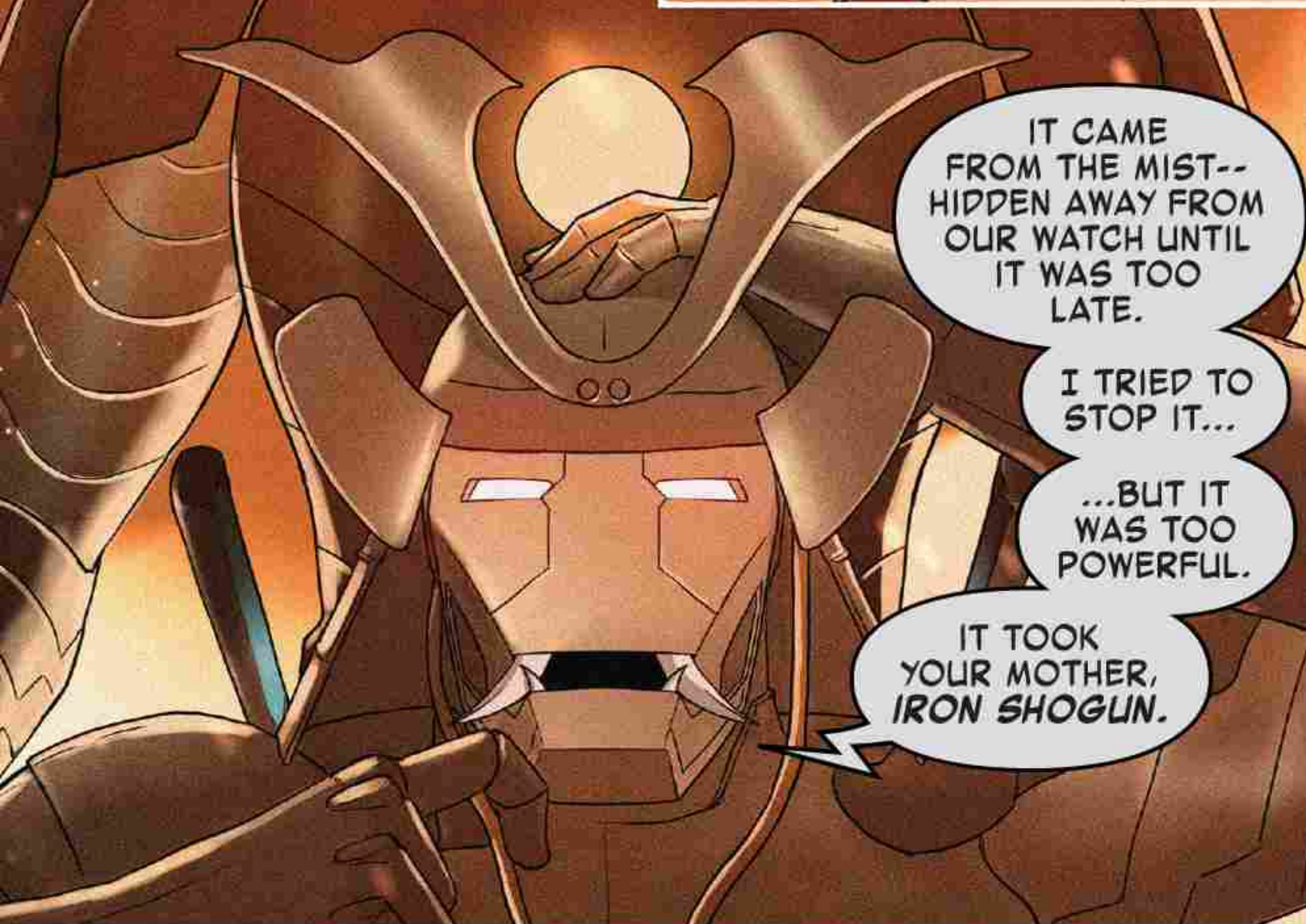
WHAT HAVE
YOU GOTTEN
US INTO,
TONY?



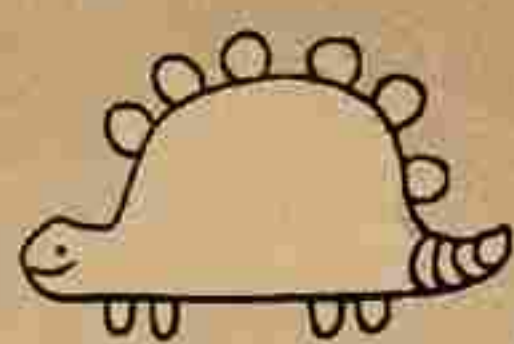
TRUST
ME.

I'LL GET
US OUT OF
THIS.

JUST
DRINK
UP.



"THE ONI
QUEEN."

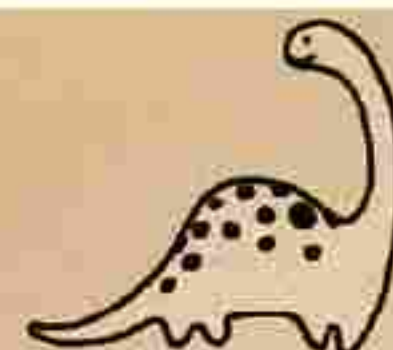


SAVE ME,
IRON
SAMURAI.

IRON
RONIN?

IT'S
IRON
SHOGUN,
MOM.

SAME
DIFFERENCE,
DEAR.



I'M NOT
PLAYING ANYMORE
IF YOU'RE NOT
GOING TO TAKE IT
SERIOUSLY.

I AM
TAKING IT
SERIOUSLY.

NO,
YOU'RE
NOT.

YOU'RE
READING
"STEAMY COMIC
BOOKS" OR
WHATEVER YOU
CALL THEM WHEN
YOU'RE TALKING
WITH AUNT
ANNALISE.



SAVE
ME...

~SIGH~

...IRON
SHOGUN.

EH.



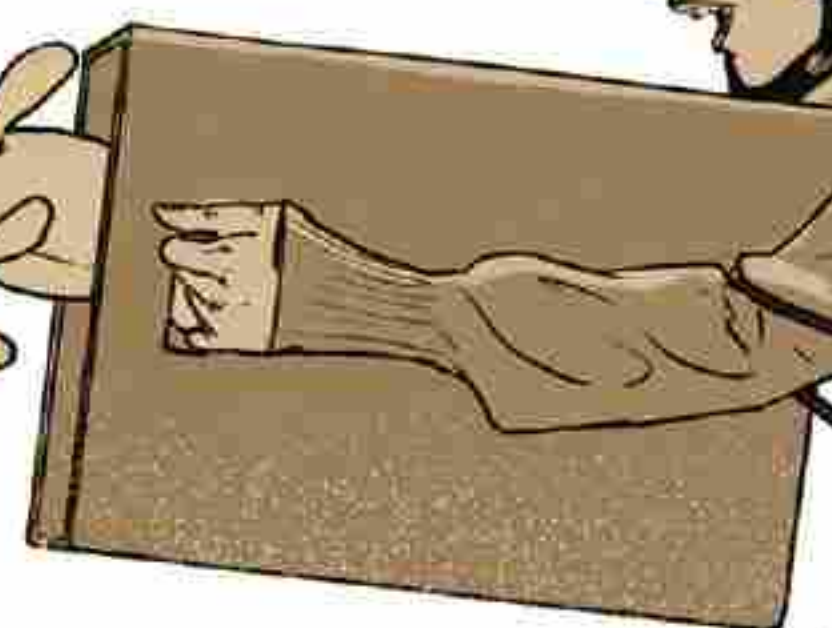
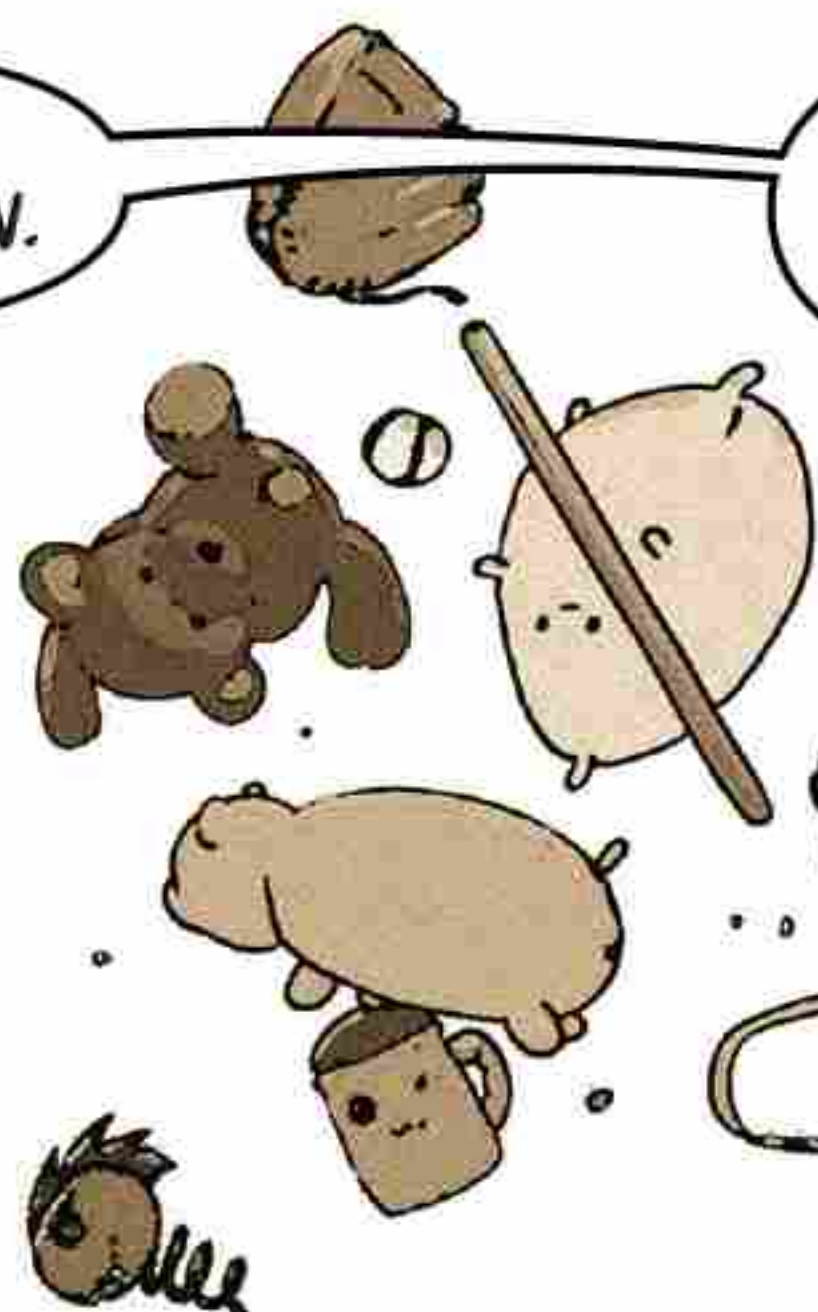
FEAR NOT,
MOTHER.

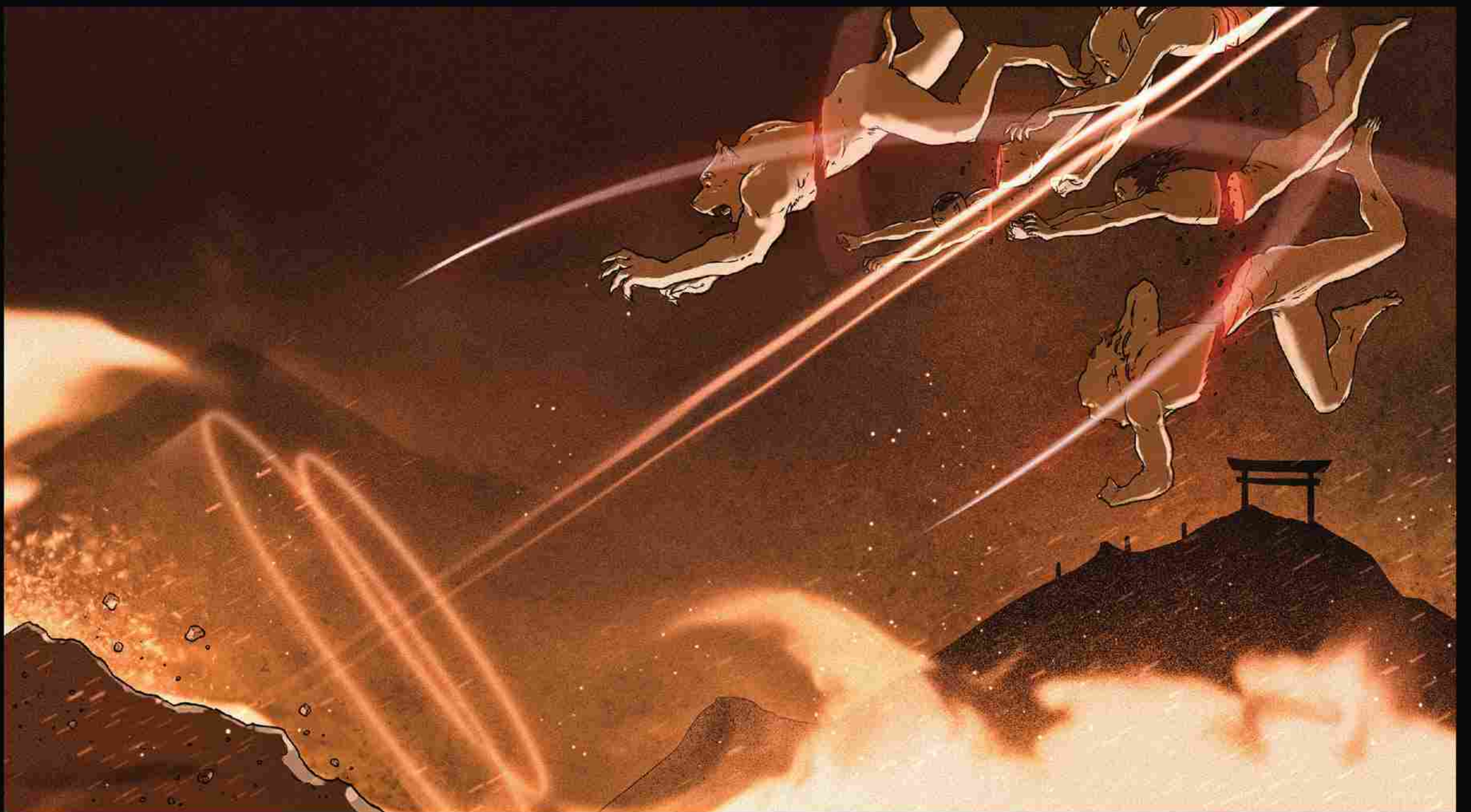
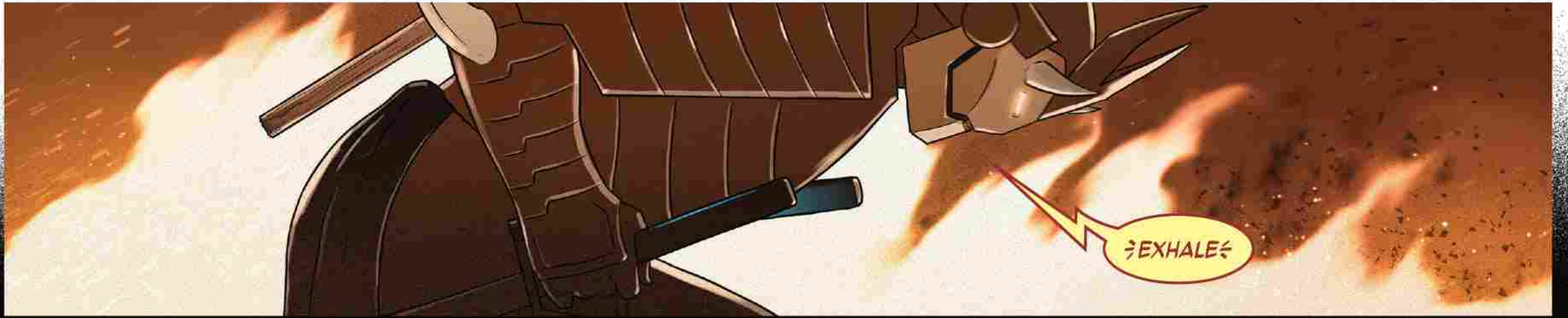
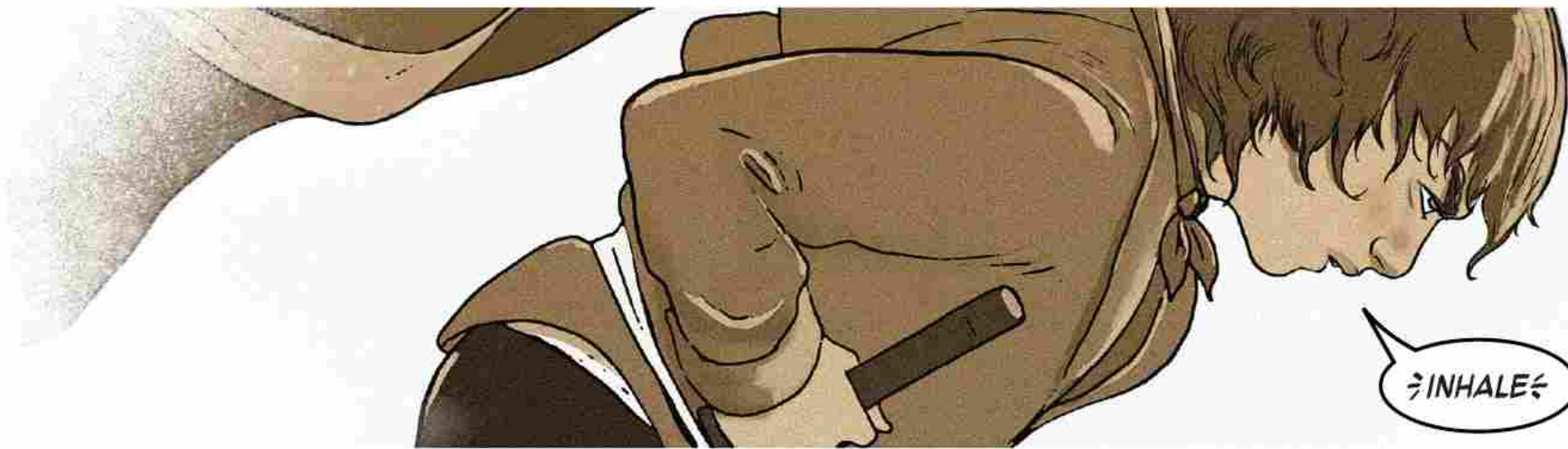
I'M HERE TO
SAVE YOU FROM THE
GRASP OF THESE FOUL
CREATURES.



LOOK OUT,
IRON SHOGUN.

THE ONI
QUEEN'S MINIONS
WANT TO EAT YOUR
FACE.







NOW
FACE
ME...



...ONI
QUEEN.



MOM,
STOP! I'M THE
IRON SHOGUN.
I'M SUPPOSED
TO RESCUE
YOU.

YOU WERE
TOO LATE. I'M
ALREADY UNDER THE
CONTROL OF THE
ONI QUEEN.

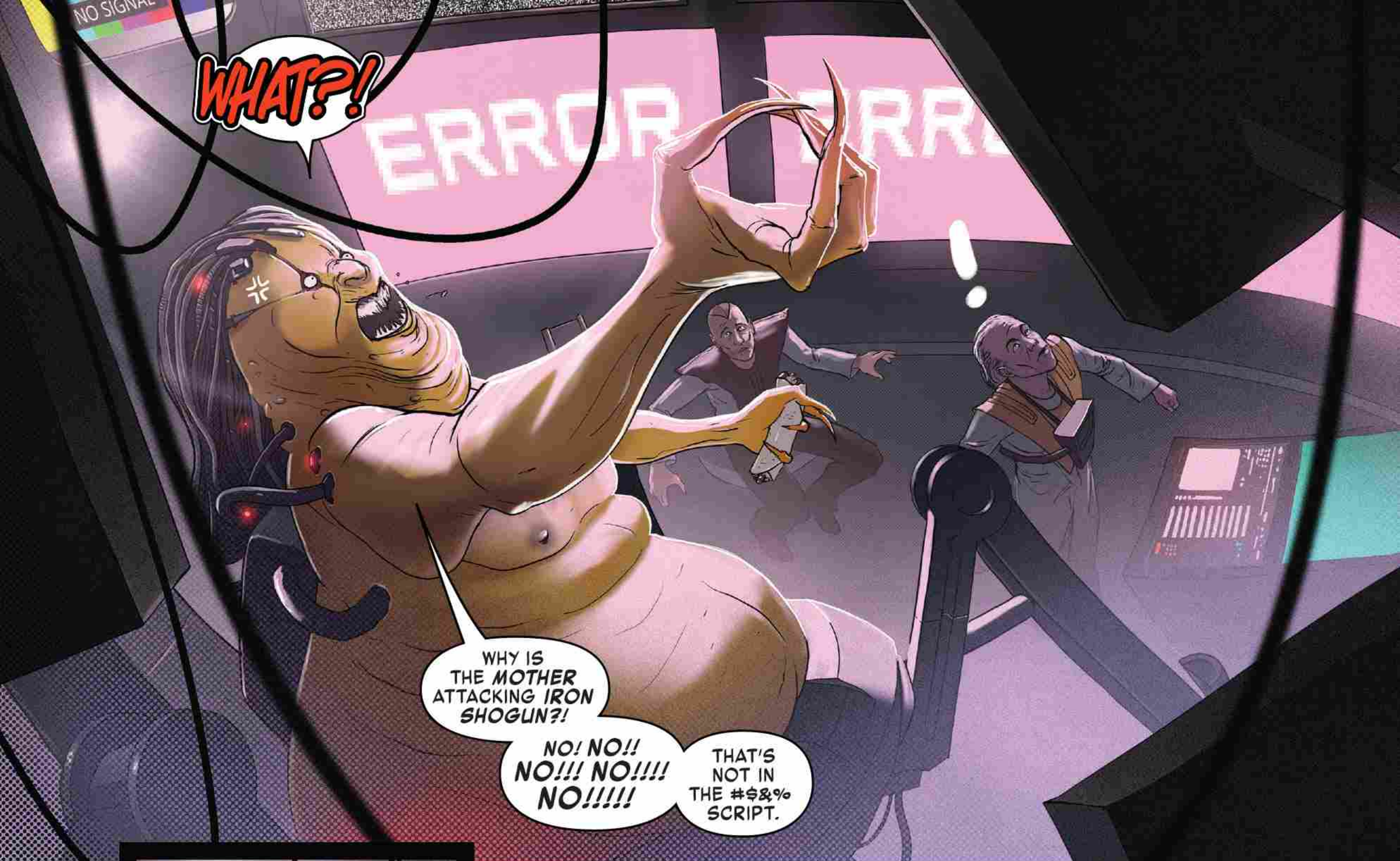
NO! STOP.
THAT'S NOT WHAT'S
SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN.



YOU
ACTUALLY
LEAPED AT
ME.

YOUR SON
DID SAY YOU'D
PICK UP ON THE STORY
AND KNOW WHEN TO
BREAK AWAY
FROM IT.

HI. I AM
IRON MAN.
I'M HERE TO
RESCUE YOU.



WHAT?!

ERROR ERROR

WHY IS
THE MOTHER
ATTACKING IRON
SHOGUN?!

NO! NO!!
NO!!! NO!!!!
NO!!!!!

THAT'S
NOT IN
THE #&%
SCRIPT.

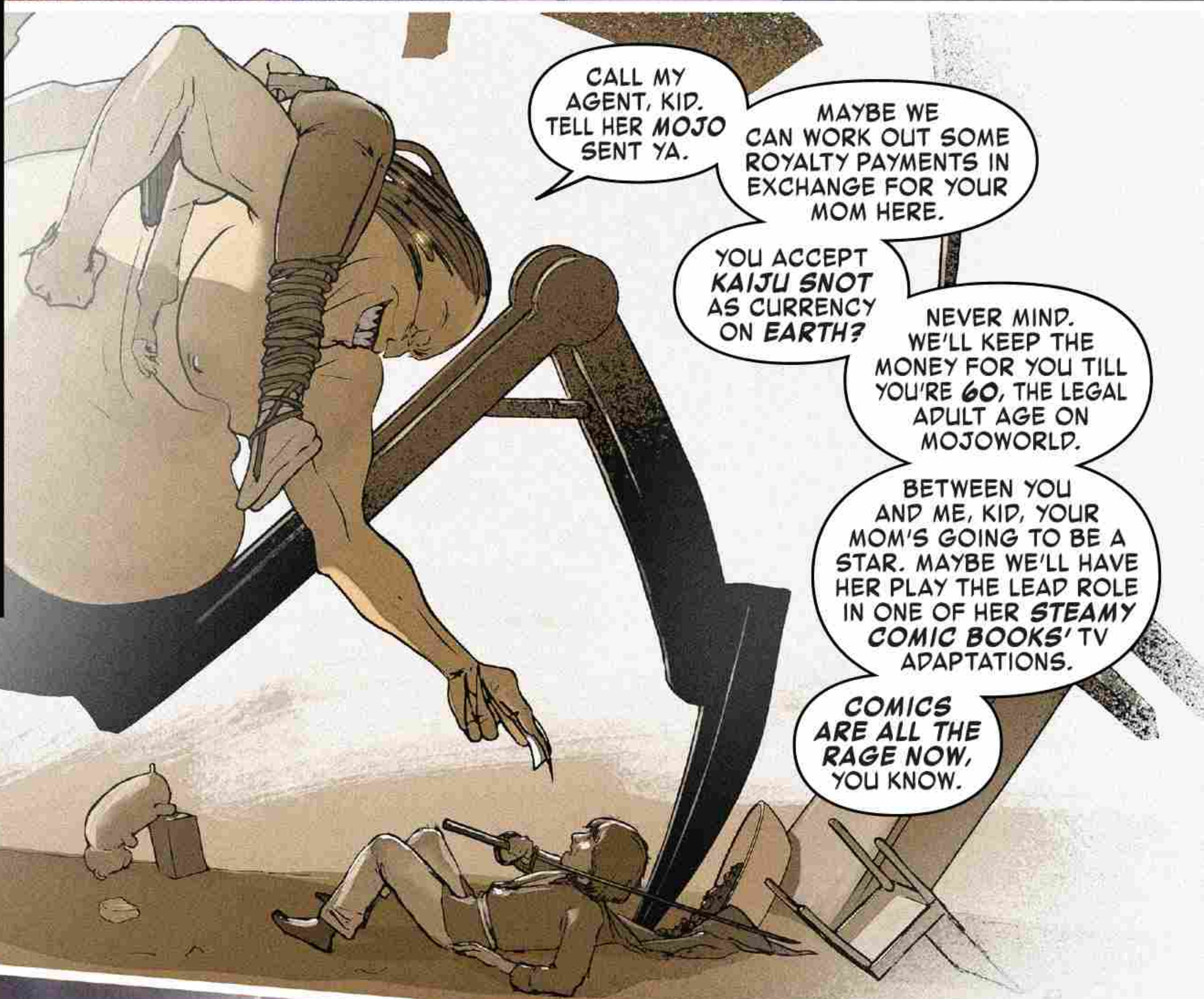


NEW
TALENT.

CHOMP!

YOU
CAN'T TRUST
THEM.

WHAT
DO WE
DO NOW,
BOSS?



CALL MY
AGENT, KID.
TELL HER MOJO
SENT YA.

MAYBE WE
CAN WORK OUT SOME
ROYALTY PAYMENTS IN
EXCHANGE FOR YOUR
MOM HERE.

YOU ACCEPT
KAIJU SNOT
AS CURRENCY
ON EARTH?

NEVER MIND.
WE'LL KEEP THE
MONEY FOR YOU TILL
YOU'RE 60, THE LEGAL
ADULT AGE ON
MOJOWORLD.

BETWEEN YOU
AND ME, KID, YOUR
MOM'S GOING TO BE A
STAR. MAYBE WE'LL HAVE
HER PLAY THE LEAD ROLE
IN ONE OF HER STEAMY
COMIC BOOKS' TV
ADAPTATIONS.

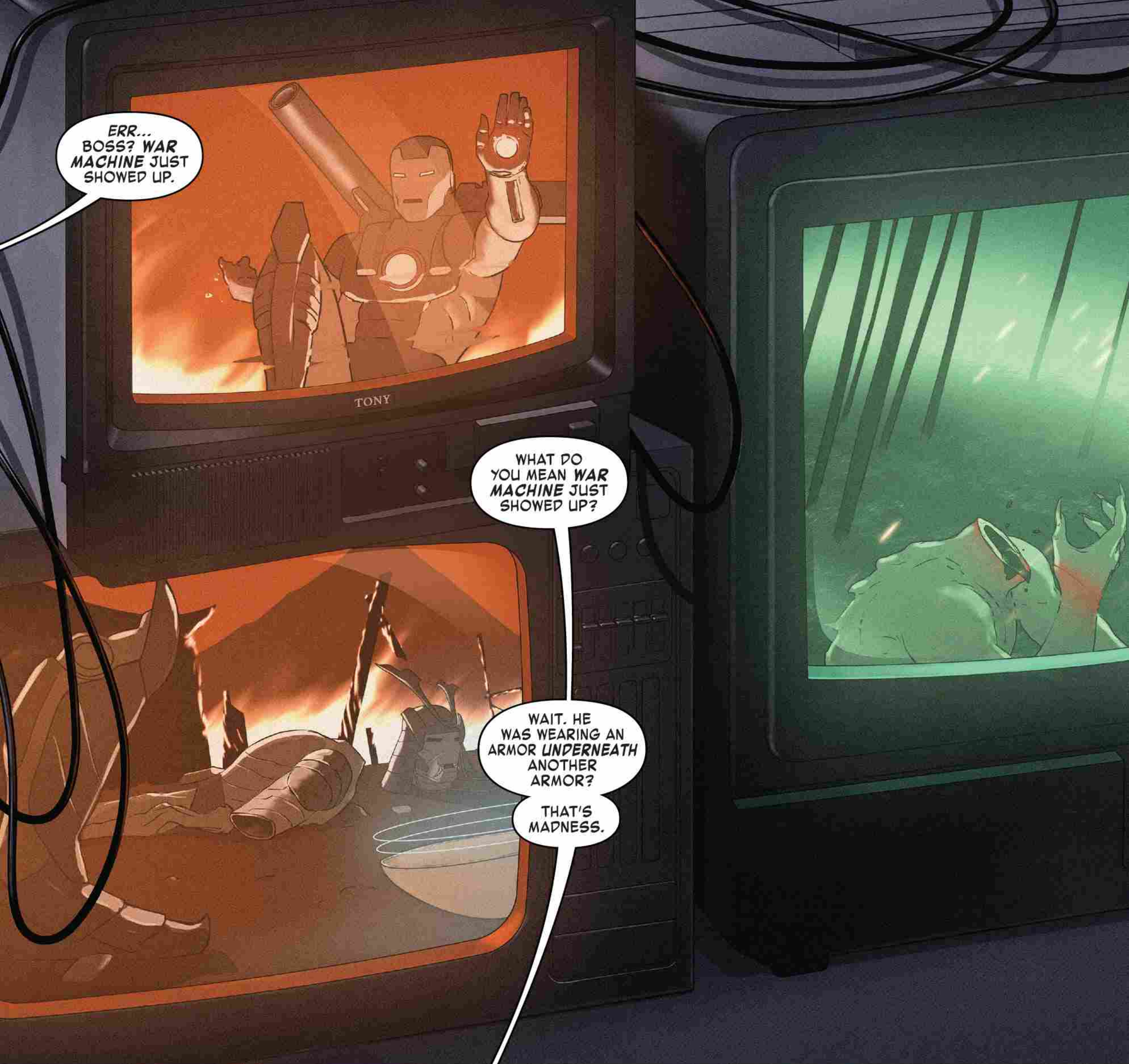
COMICS
ARE ALL THE
RAGE NOW,
YOU KNOW.



HEAR THIS,
IRON MAN...

...NO
ONE POACHES
TALENT FROM
MOJO.





ERR...
BOSS? WAR
MACHINE JUST
SHOWED UP.

WHAT DO
YOU MEAN WAR
MACHINE JUST
SHOWED UP?

WAIT. HE
WAS WEARING AN
ARMOR *UNDERNEATH*
ANOTHER
ARMOR?

THAT'S
MADNESS.

NOT EVERYONE
CAN BE AS *BODY*
POSITIVE AS YOU
ARE, BOSS.

NO
ONE...

KPK!

...POACHES
TALENT FROM
MOJO.



PLEASE, HOLD STILL.

!GASP!~

YOUR FACE--

THE SHOGUN ARMOR ISN'T JUST FOR SHOW.



NO ONE...

...POACHES TALENT...

...FROM MOJO.



SEE, MOM? I TOLD YOU IRON MAN IS THE BEST.

BOBBY! WE'LL HAVE TO THROW AWAY YOUR X-MEN TOYS WHEN I GET HOME, THEN. NOTHING BUT **THE BEST** FOR YOU.

HEY NOW, I THINK WE'RE GETTING A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY HERE, MOM.

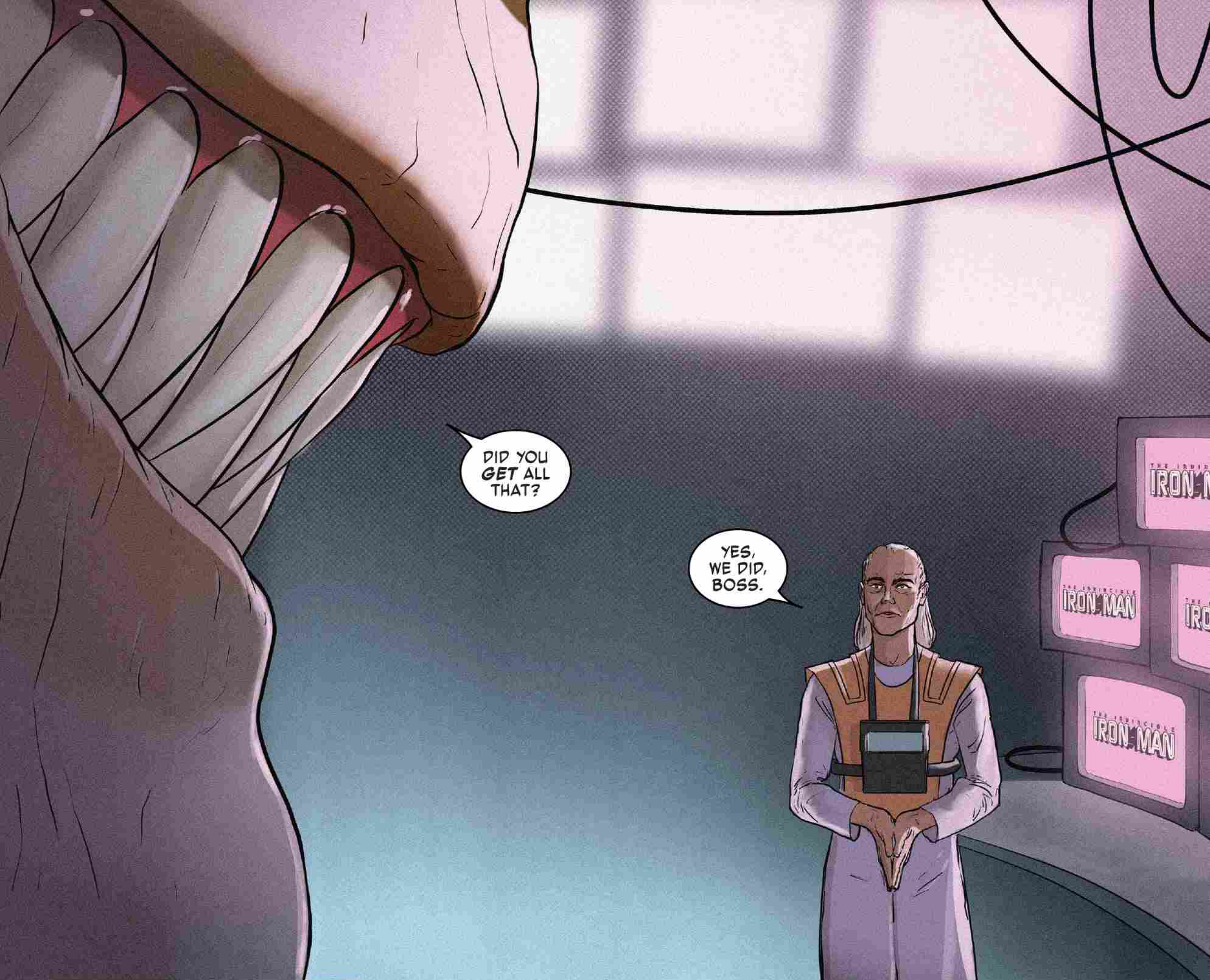
TELL ME ABOUT IT. YOU KNOW WHAT THOSE THINGS SELL FOR NOW?

ALL RIGHT, MOJO...



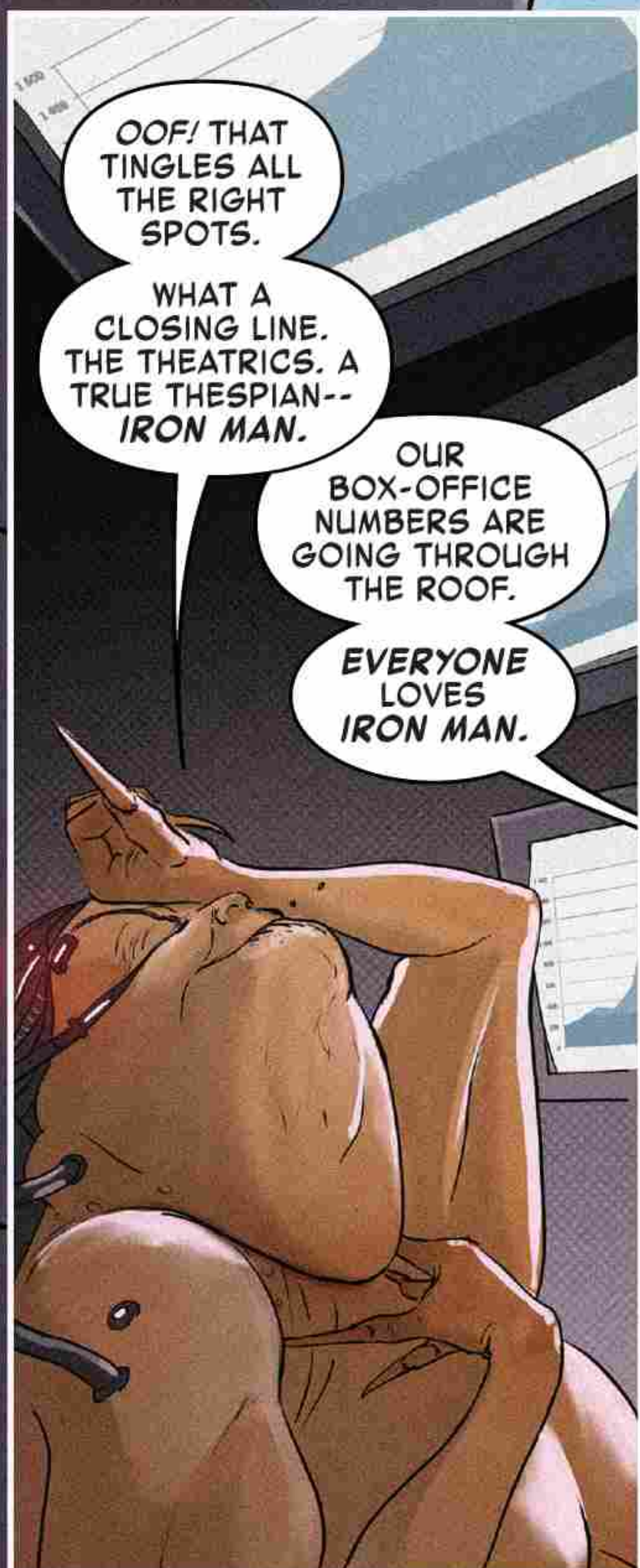
...WOULD LOVE TO STAY FOR THE AFTER-PARTY, BUT WE KIND OF PREFER OUR PARTIES WITHOUT NAKED GUYS WHO ARE PRONE TO KIDNAPPING.

NOT AS MUCH FUN AS YOU WOULD THINK.



DID YOU
GET ALL
THAT?

YES,
WE DID,
BOSS.



OOF! THAT
TINGLES ALL
THE RIGHT
SPOTS.

WHAT A
CLOSING LINE.
THE THEATRICS. A
TRUE THESPIAN--
IRON MAN.

OUR
BOX-OFFICE
NUMBERS ARE
GOING THROUGH
THE ROOF.

**EVERYONE
LOVES
IRON MAN.**

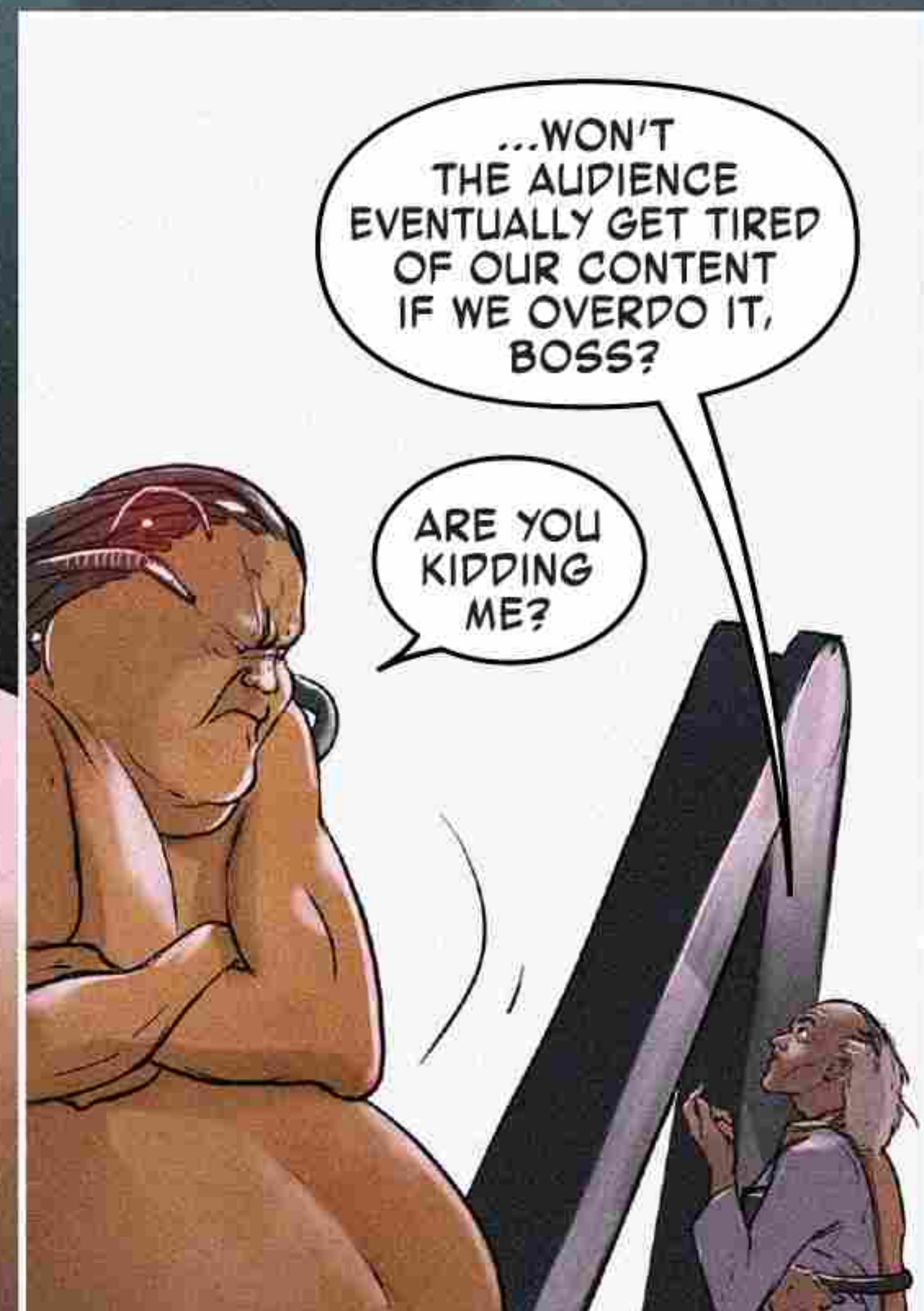


HA!!! WE
HAVE TO DO
THIS AGAIN.

MAYBE ONE
MORE TIME--NO,
**TWO MORE TIMES--WITH
IRON MAN.** THEN WE KEEP
ADDING MORE AND MORE
HEROES FROM **EARTH** AND
MAYBE SOME **NOT**
FROM EARTH.

WE'LL
MAKE A LOT
OF MONEY.

UM...



...WON'T
THE AUDIENCE
EVENTUALLY GET TIRED
OF OUR CONTENT
IF WE OVERDO IT,
BOSS?

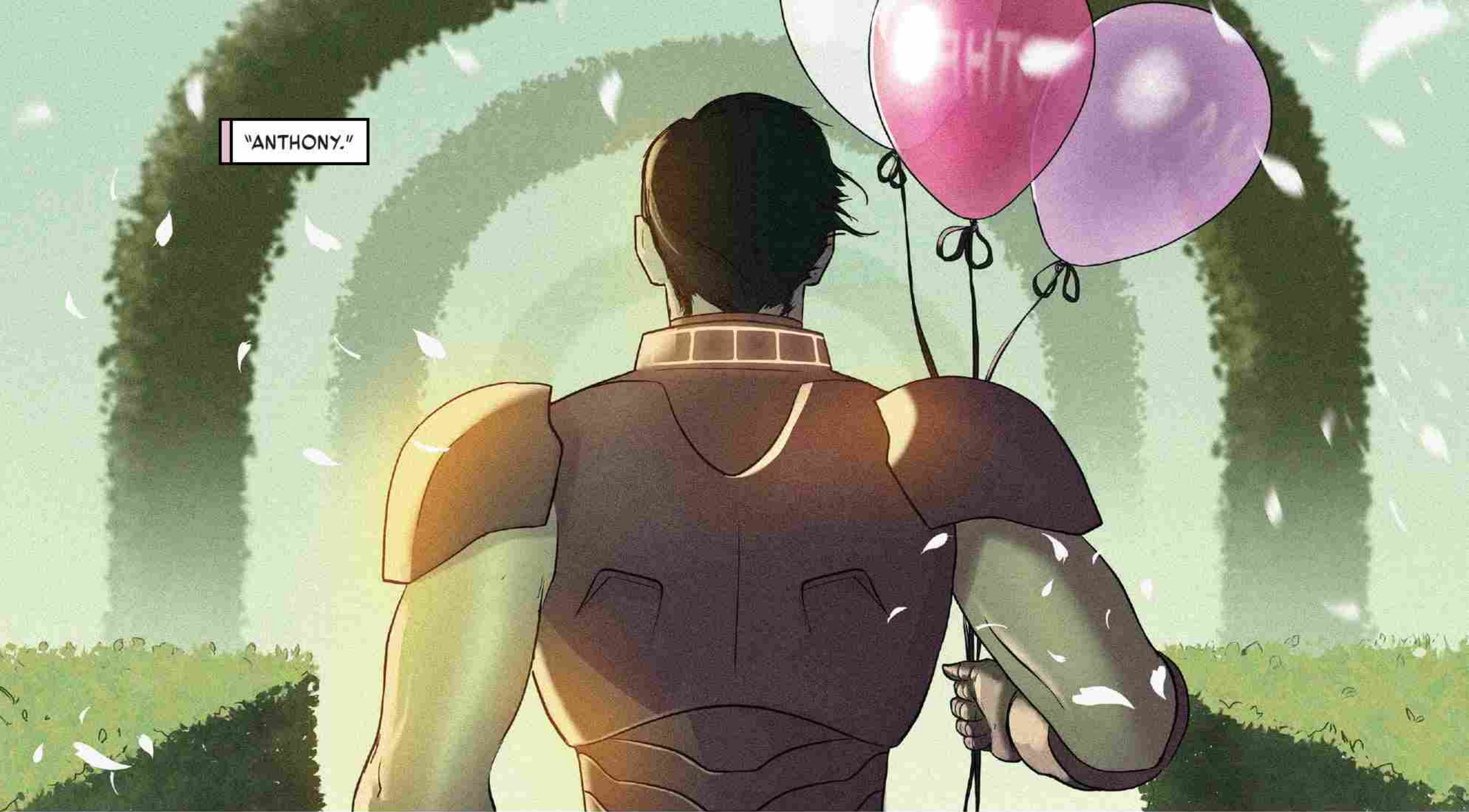
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?

"THE AUDIENCE WILL
NEVER GET TIRED
OF STORIES ABOUT
HEROES."

I MISSED
YOU, MOM.

I MISSED
YOU TOO,
BOBBY.

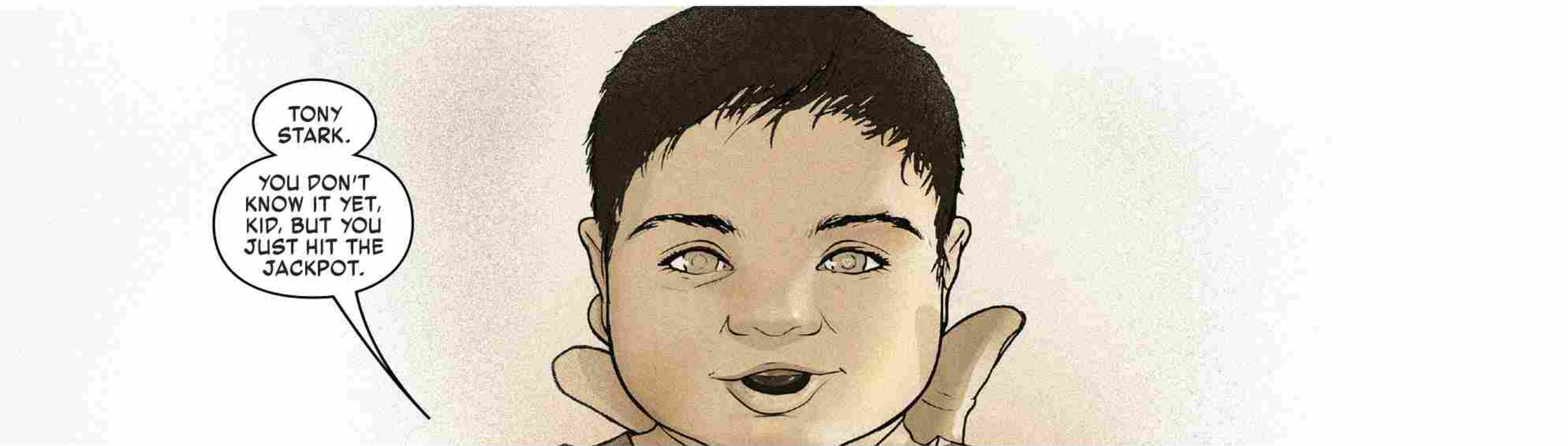




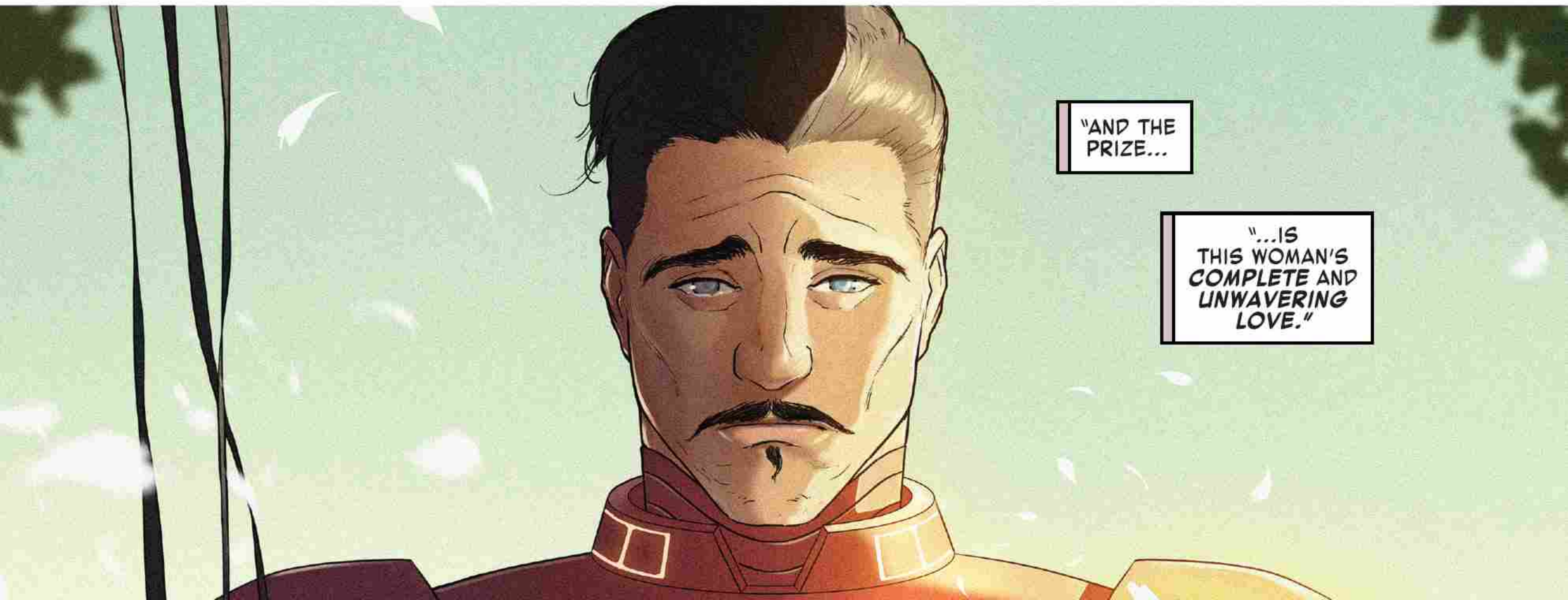
"ANTHONY."



TONY.

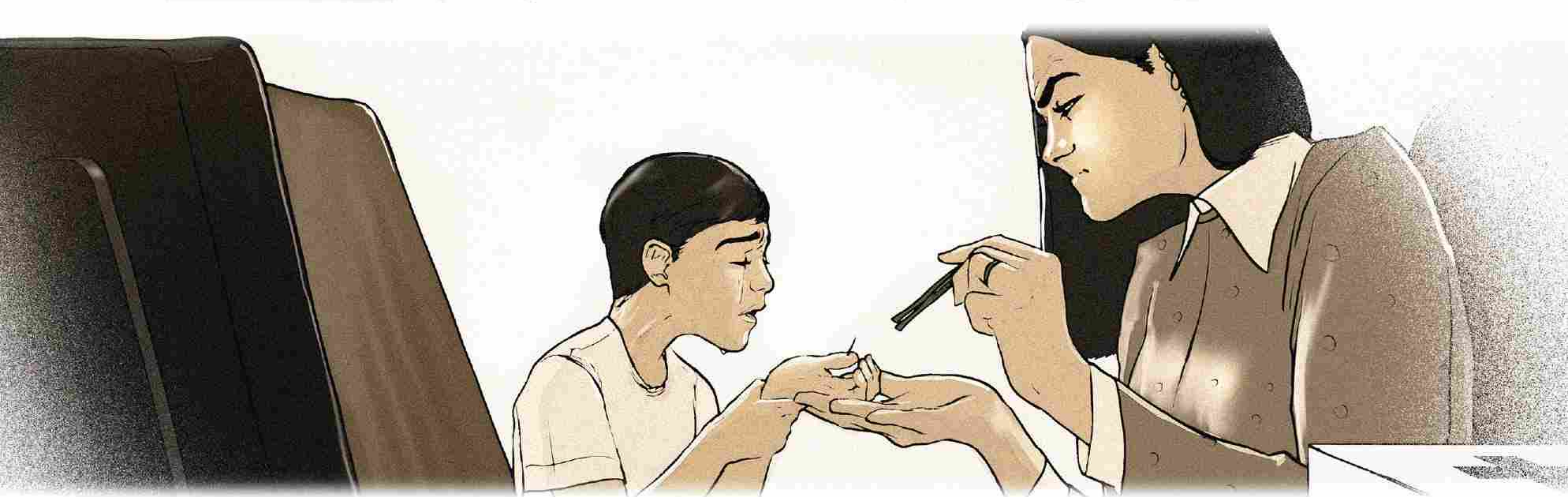


TONY STARK.
YOU DON'T KNOW IT YET, KID, BUT YOU JUST HIT THE JACKPOT.

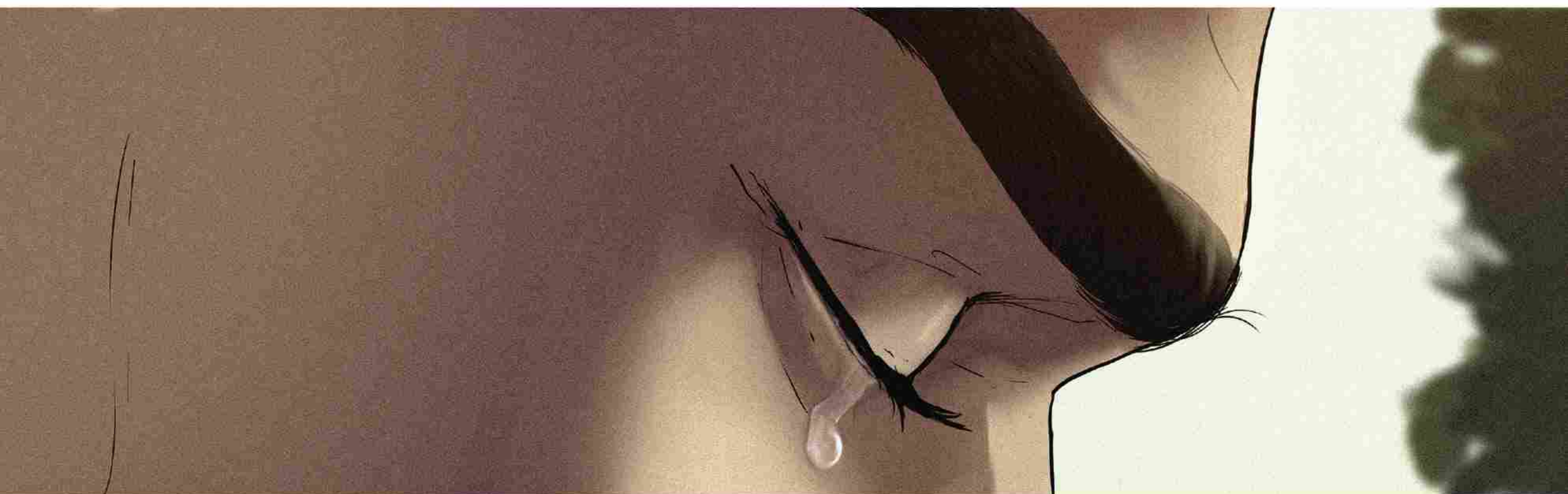
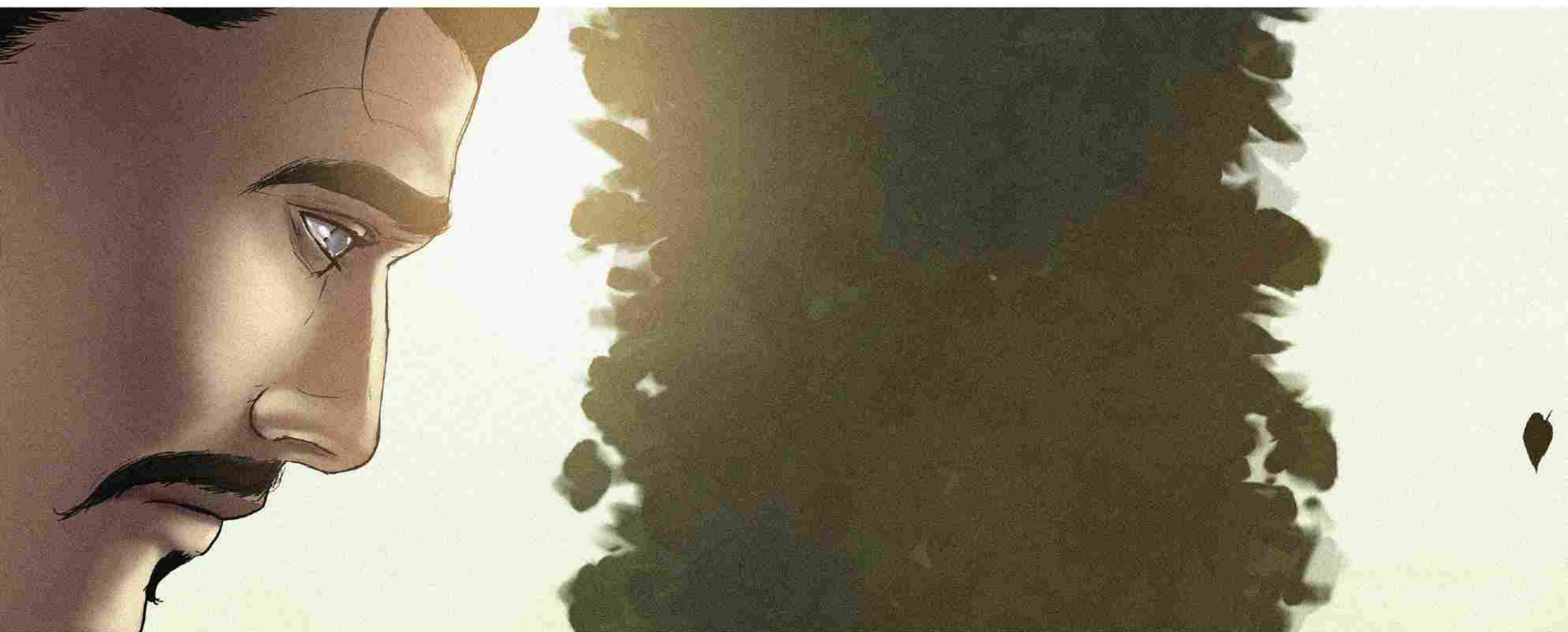
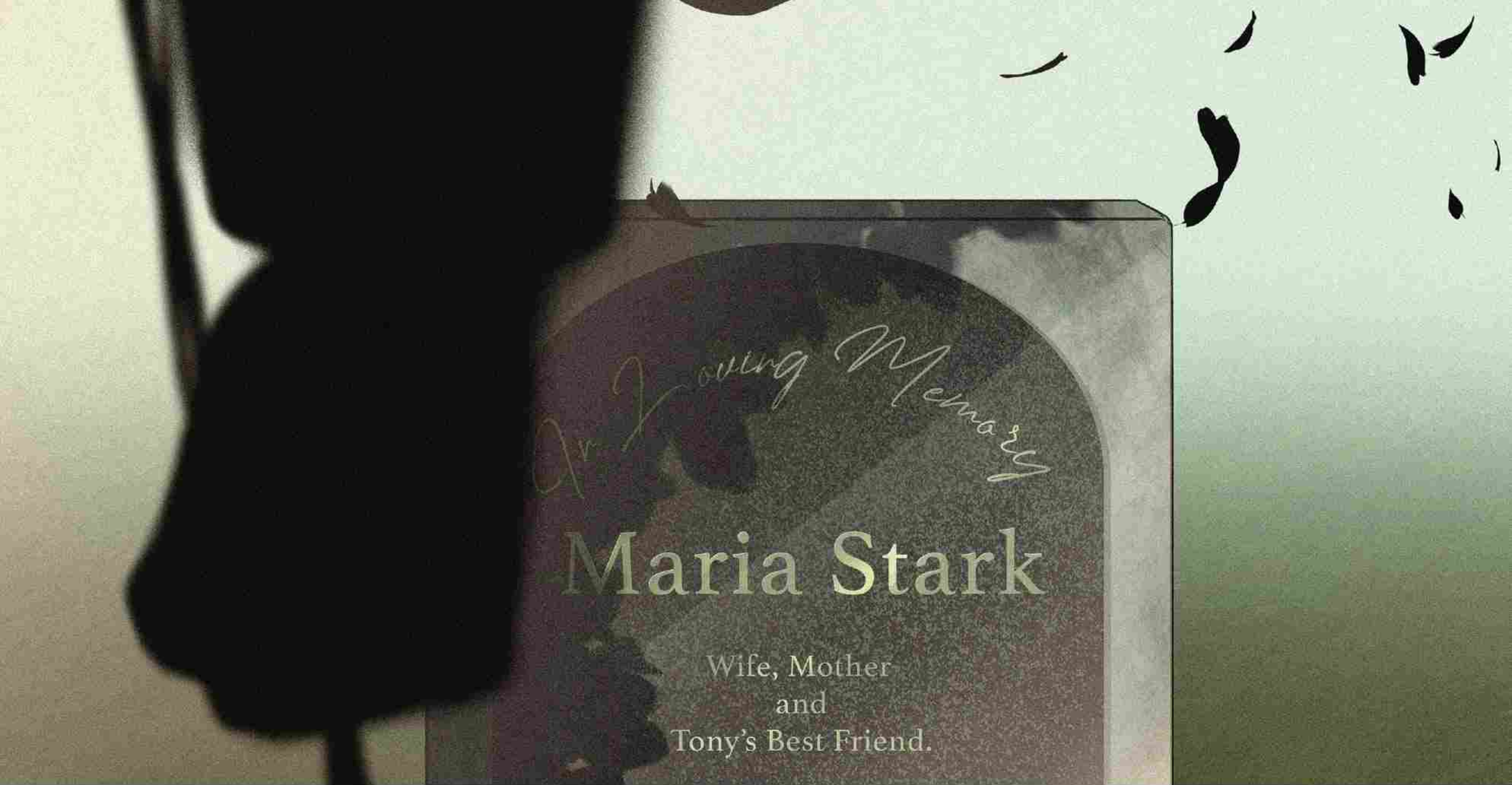


"AND THE PRIZE..."

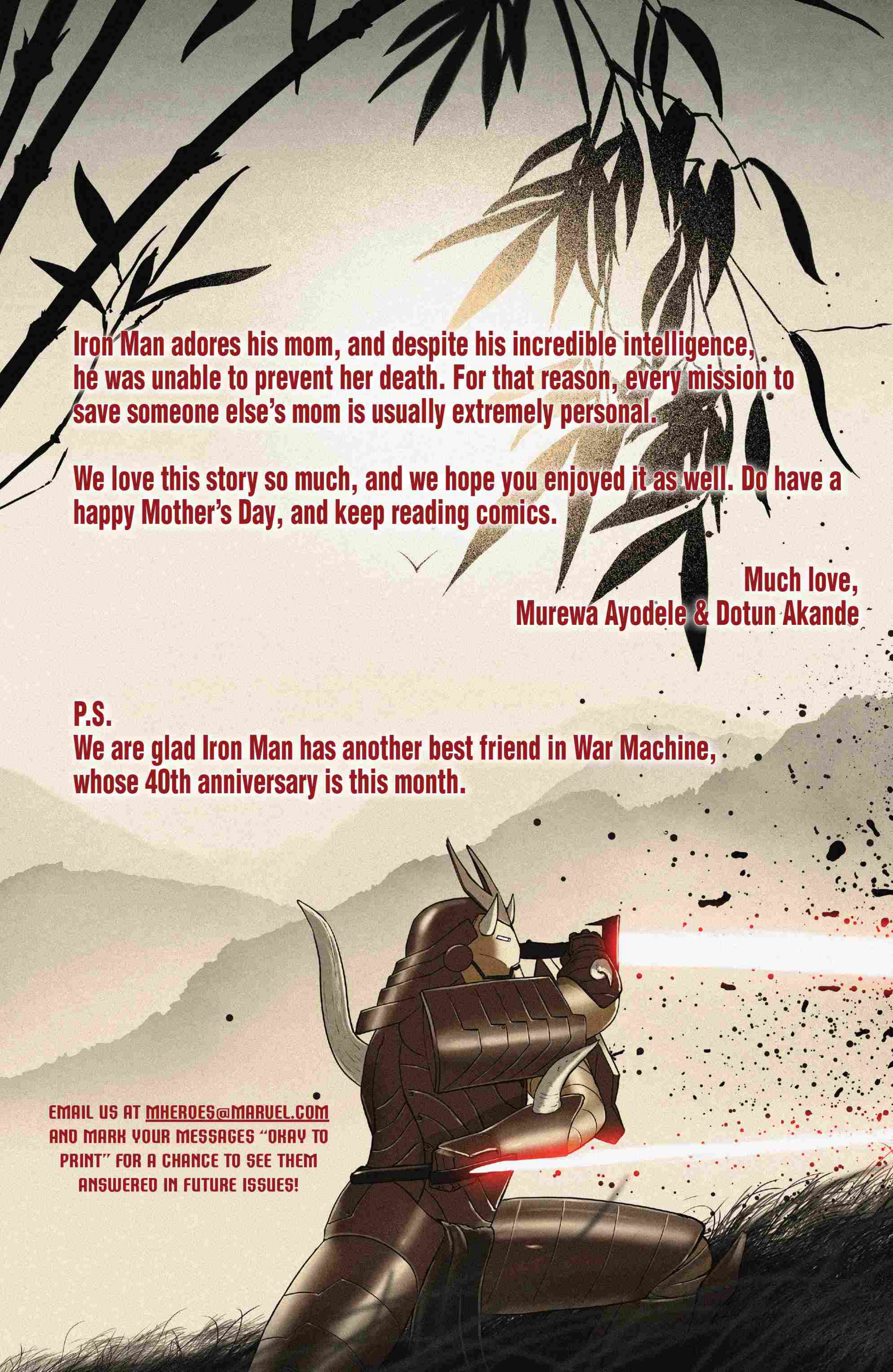
"...IS THIS WOMAN'S COMPLETE AND UNWAVERING LOVE."







End.



Iron Man adores his mom, and despite his incredible intelligence, he was unable to prevent her death. For that reason, every mission to save someone else's mom is usually extremely personal.

We love this story so much, and we hope you enjoyed it as well. Do have a happy Mother's Day, and keep reading comics.

**Much love,
Murewa Ayodele & Dotun Akande**

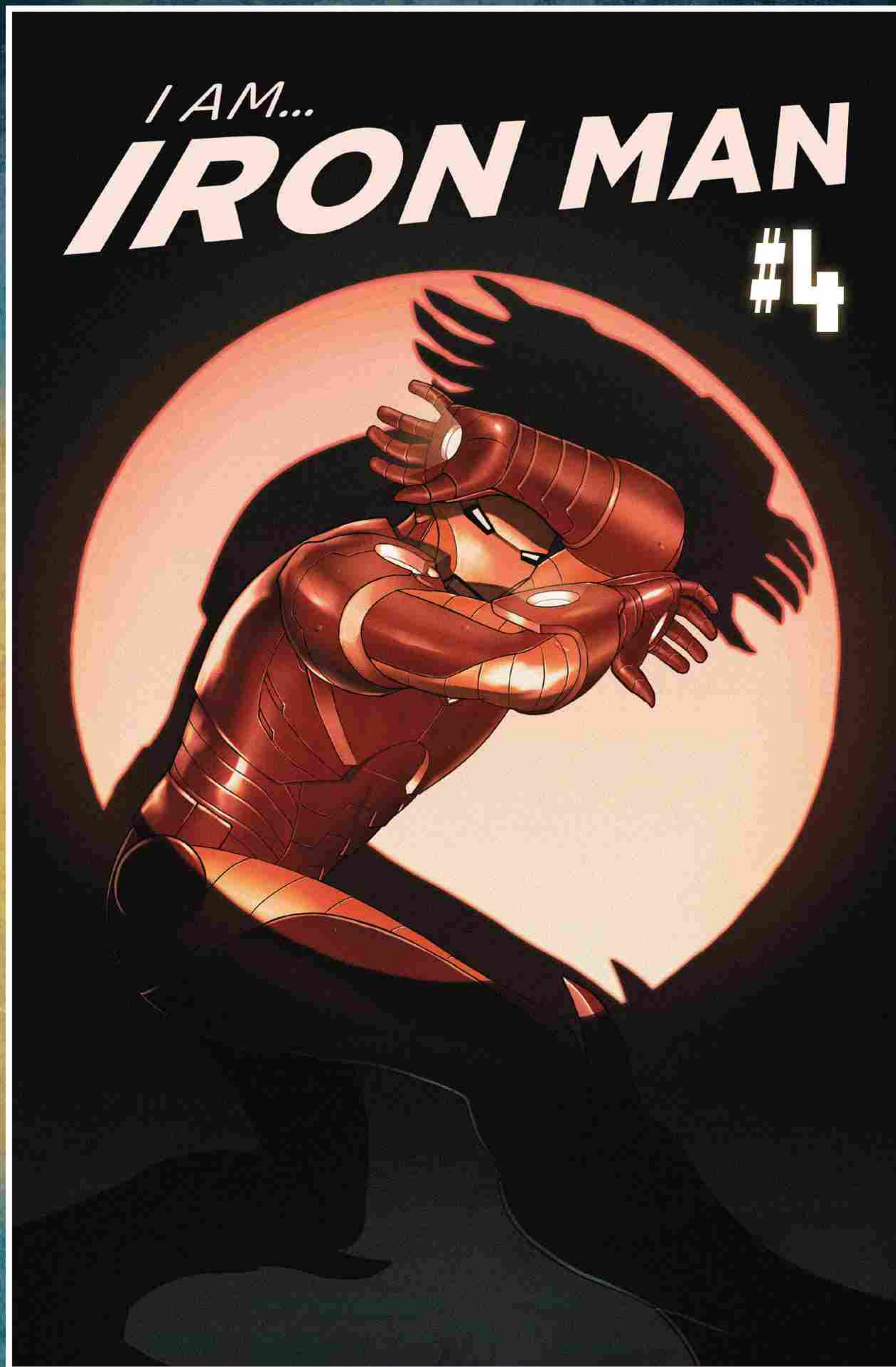
P.S.

We are glad Iron Man has another best friend in War Machine, whose 40th anniversary is this month.



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AND MARK YOUR MESSAGES "OKAY TO
PRINT" FOR A CHANCE TO SEE THEM
ANSWERED IN FUTURE ISSUES!**

NEXT:



Just like everyone, Iron Man has his demons. But when you're Director of S.H.I.E.L.D., your demons can be world-ending--and must be faced with only a suit of armor and a handful of secrets.

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ZONE